Coordinates: 48°09′29″N 11°30′13″E

Nymphenburg Palace

The **Nymphenburg Palace** (German: *Schloss Nymphenburg, Palace of the Nymphs*) is a Baroque palace situated in Munich's western district Neuhausen-Nymphenburg, in Bavaria, southern Germany. Combined with the adjacent Nymphenburg Palace Park it constitutes one of the premier royal palaces of Europe. Its frontal width of 632 m (2,073 ft) (north-south axis) even surpasses Versailles Palace. The Nymphenburg served as the main summer residence for the former rulers of Bavaria of the House of Wittelsbach.

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Nymphenburg Palace

General information	
Architectural style	Baroque
Location	Munich, Germany
Coordinates	48°09′29″N 11°30′13″E
Construction started	1664
Completed	1675
Design and construction	
Architect	Agostino Barelli
Other designers	Enrico Zucalli, Giovanni Antonio Viscardi, Joseph Effner

History

Building History

The palace was commissioned by the electoral couple Ferdinand Maria and Henriette Adelaide of Savoy to the designs of the Italian architect Agostino Barelli in 1664 after the birth of their son Maximilian II Emanuel. The central pavilion was completed in 1675. As a building material, it utilised limestone from Kelheim. The palace was gradually expanded and transformed over the years.[1] It then quickly replaced the nearby Blutenburg Castle as major hunting lodge of the court.

Starting in 1701, Maximilian Emanuel, the heir to Bavaria, a sovereign electorate of the Holy Roman Empire, undertook a systematic extension of the palace. Two pavilions were added each in the south and north of Barelli's palace by Enrico Zucalli and Giovanni Antonio Viscardi and were connected with the centre pavilion by two gallery wings. In 1716, Joseph Effner redesigned the facade of the centre pavilion in French Baroque style with pilasters. Later, the south section of the palace was further extended to build the court stables (1719). For the sake of balance, the orangery building was added to the north which was only completed in 1758. Finally, Nymphenburg Palace was completed with a grand circle (the *Schlossrondell*) of Baroque mansions (the so-called Kavaliershäuschen – cavalier's lodges) erected under Maximilian Emanuel's son Holy Roman Emperor Charles VII Albert.

Nymphenburg Palace, around 1760, as painted by Bernardo Bellotto.

In 1795, Charles Theodore, Elector of Bavaria ordered the widening of the galleries on the park side. In 1826, under King Ludwig I of Bavaria, his architect Leo von Klenze removed the gables of the main pavilion with the Electoral coat of arms and created an attic style decoration directly under the roof instead.[1][2]

Birthroom of King Ludwig II of Bavaria.

Residence

With the Treaty of Nymphenburg signed in July 1741, Charles Albert allied with France and Spain against Austria. Two of his children were born here: Maria Antonia (future Electress of Saxony) in 1724 and Maria Anna Josepha (future Margravine of Baden-Baden) in 1734. Charles Albert lived during his time in Munich as Holy Roman Emperor at Nymphenburg Palace and died there in 1745. In 1747, Elector Max III. Joseph founded the Nymphenburg Porcelain Manufactory. In 1792, Elector Charles Theodor opened the park for the public.

For a long time, the palace was the favourite summer residence of the rulers of Bavaria. King Max I Joseph died there in 1825 and his great-grandson King Ludwig II was born there in 1845. In 1863, the only meeting between Ludwig and Otto von Bismarck was held in Nymphenburg, although they remained connected in a lifelong friendship.

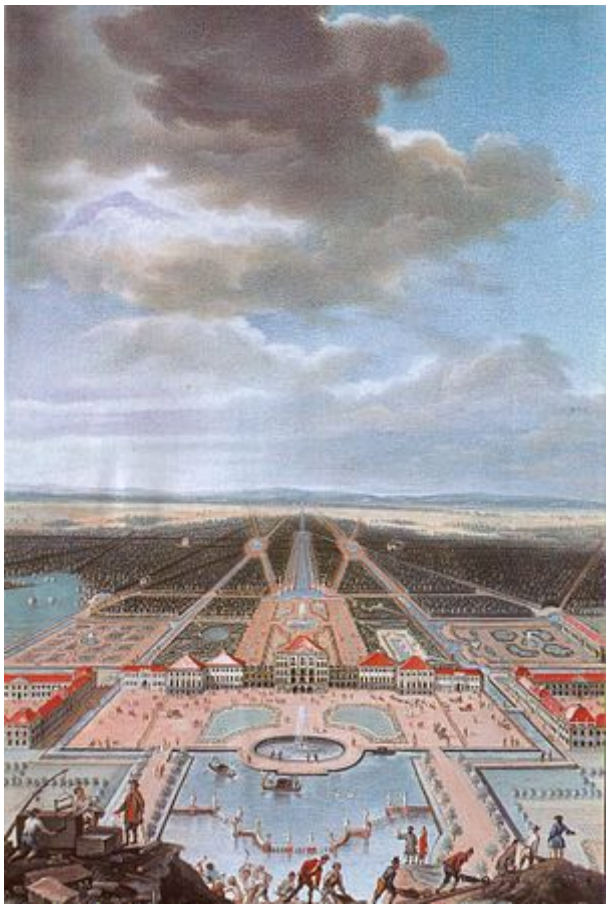
Luitpold, Prince Regent of Bavaria with his son Ludwig, his grandson Rupprecht and his great-grandson Luitpold in the park of Nymphenburg Palace, about 1910

Today, Nymphenburg is open to the public but also continues to be a home and chancery for the head of the House of Wittelsbach, currently Franz, Duke of Bavaria.[3][4]

Palace

The palace, together with its park, is now one of the most famous sights of Munich. The baroque facades comprise an overall width of about 700 metres. Some rooms still show their original baroque decoration while others were later redesigned in rococo or neoclassical style.

Central pavilion



Nymphenburg, ca 1730.

The *Steinerner Saal* (Stone Hall) in the *central pavilion*, with ceiling frescoes by Johann Baptist Zimmermann and F. Zimmermann and decorations by François de Cuvilliés, is an impressive sight. Acting as a grand hall, it occupies over three floors of the central pavilion of the palace. The central ceiling fresco is Helios in his chariot, accompanied by other gods.

North of the Stone Hall, there is the wood-panelled antechamber, the audience chamber decorated with Brussels tapestries and the former bedroom with the so-called *Little Beauty Gallery* with the ladies of Versailles, all rooms were remodelled under Maximilian II Emanuel in the style of the Régence but retain their original Baroque ceilings. Here are on display portraits of the elector and his wife Theresa Kunegunda Sobieska. The bedroom closes the park side, next to it is the *Drechsel Cabinet* (turnery cabinet) of Maximilian III Joseph, designed by François de Cuvilliés. Three rooms further to the north were created under Charles Theodore with the widening of the gallery wing. In the first room there are now more portraits of ladies from the *Great Gallery of Beauties* of Max Emanuel, the second one is decorated with a pile rug with the coats of arms of Bavaria and the Palatinate (known as "coat of arms room"), while the third room contains portraits of Charles Theodore and both his consorts Elisabeth Auguste and Maria Leopoldine.[1]

Aerial photograph Nymphenburg palace and exterior

South of the Stone Hall are inversely to the northern rooms of the main building, the hall with the portrait of Charles Albert, the audience room with the portrait of the founding couple Ferdinand Maria and his consort Henriette Adelaide and the Former Bedroom with portraits of Max Emanuel and his consort Theresa Kunegunda. Here too, the original Baroque ceilings have survived. The walls of the so-called *lacquer cabinet* that adjoins the bedroom are almost completely covered with Chinese panels showing scenes from a Chinese novel. The stucco was done by Franz Xaver Feuchtmayer the Younger. Behind the south gallery are the *Writing Cabinet* and *Antechamber* of Elector Charles Theodore, which were created with the widening of the gallery wings.

In both the **North and South Galleries** next to the *Central Pavilion* are vedutes of Bavarian castles. These galleries connect the central pavilion with the southern and northern pavilions.

Southern pavilions and wings

The **Inner southern Pavilion** housed the apartments of the Electress during the period of its origin. The former small dining room of the Inner Southern Pavilion today houses the famous attraction *Gallery of Beauties* of King Ludwig I of Bavaria. On behalf of the king the court painter Joseph Karl Stieler has

portrayed 36 "beautiful" women from all social classes of Munich, the best known of these are the shoemaker's daughter Helene Sedlmayr and Ludwig's longstanding infamous mistress, Lola Montez. Nearby, the *Queen's bedroom* one can see where, on 25 August 1845, King Ludwig II of Bavaria was born. Its mahogany furniture was made in 1815 in Munich, unlike the mahogany furniture for Queen Caroline's *audience room* which was made in Paris, as was the furniture in the *Queen's Study*. The **Outer Southern Pavilion** is generally inaccessible. It served as a kitchen building at Max Emanuel's time and was then reconstructed like the inner pavilion in neo-classical times. Further south, the third pavilion was built as a *comedihaus* and then served from 1750 as a new kitchen house. The *southern corridor* built in 1747 connects this building with the stables in the south wing.

Steinerner Saal (Marble Hall)

In the former royal stables in the **South Wing** is the Carriage Museum (*Marstallmuseum*), with one of the greatest coach collections in Europe. They also played a part in historical events - the Paris Coronation Coach for example was used for the coronation of Emperor Charles VII in 1742. Among the main attractions of the museum are the magnificent carriages and sleighs of King Ludwig II.

The first floor of the former court stables houses a collection of Nymphenburg porcelain, the factory which, also located in the palace complex, was founded by Maximilian III Joseph. Its handcrafted products are of legendary kind and quality, nowadays said to be comparable only to Augarten and Sèvres.

The Nymphenburg Porcelain Manufactory itself is located in one of the houses of the northern roundabouts and can be visited only by written appointment. In the adjoining **Outer South Wing** of the castle is a restaurant with beer garden.

The Chinese Cabinet with chinoiserie, one of the rooms of Nymphenburg Palace

Northern pavilions and wings

The **Inner Northern Pavilion** is generally inaccessible, here was Max Emanuel's "appartement de parade". The **Outer Northern Pavilion** houses the chapel, whose ceiling painting deals with the life of St. Mary Magdalene. It was already begun in 1702 by Antonio Viscardi from the design by Enrico Zuccalli. Further north is the third pavilion, the *Gardemeublebau* from 1723, which served for the Cue sports and the Jeu de Passe during the period of its origin. It is connected to the north wing by the *northern corridor* of 1739.

Since 1990, the *Museum of Man and Nature* has been housed in the **North Wing**. The *Hubertus Hall* upstairs served for concerts. Today the Hubertus Hall, the Orangery Hall, and the Johannis Hall in the North Wing as well as the Iron House in the park can be booked for parties, concerts, conferences and other functions. From 1835 the Mary Ward Elementary School was in the adjoining **Outer North Wing** of the castle. Founded by Mary Ward, it paved the way for a better education for girls. Mary Ward came after travelling from Rome to Munich in 1627 and was sponsored by Elector Maximilian I. King Ludwig I finally invited the girls' school to the Nymphenburg Palace in 1835.[3]

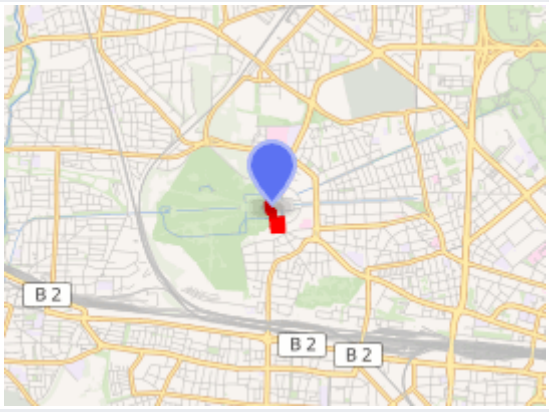
Park

Garden structure

The 200-hectare (490-acre) park, once an Italian garden (1671), which was enlarged and rearranged in French style by Dominique Girard, a pupil of Le Notre, was finally redone in the English manner during the early 19th century by Friedrich Ludwig von Sckell, on behalf of prince-elector Charles Theodore. Von Sckell was also the creator of the English Garden in Munich. He preserved the main elements of the Baroque garden (such as the "Grand Parterre"). The park is bisected by the long western canal along the principal axis which leads from the palace to the marble cascade (decorated with stone figures of Greek and Roman gods) in the west. The iron greenhouse north of the Grand Parterre was completed in 1807, the adjacent geranium house in 1816.

Nymphenburg Palace Park

Nymphenburg Durchblick Grosse Kaskade in Munich



Location	Munich, Bavaria, Germany
Area	229 km^2 (88 sq mi)
Created	1701
Operated by	Bayerische Verwaltung der staatlichen Schlösser, Gärten und Seen
Status	Open year round

The garden parterre is still a visible feature of the French garden. As part of the transformation of the entire castle grounds by Sckell it was simplified, but retained its original size. The "Grand Cascade" was built by Joseph Effner in 1717. He was referring to a concept of François Roëttiers. The water falls in the middle of a two-part water staircase, the first stage being half round to the west, the second, deeper, is formed to the east. The cascade consists of symmetry which continues through the centre channel. The right side of the cataract was covered with pink marble in 1770. Originally a supporting architecture was to be provided, which was never executed. Instead, from 1775 to 1785, sculptures were added. Many were the work of Dominik Auliczek and Roman Anton Boos, who later added twelve decorative marble vases with mythological themes.

The fountains in front of the palace and in the garden *parterre* continue to be operated by the water powered Pumping Stations built between 1803 and 1808.

The Northern Cabinet Garden is small garden that borders directly the garden side of the north wing of the main palace. It is also called *Kaisergarten*, because it is in the immediate vicinity of the rooms where Charles Albert lived during his time in Munich as Emperor Charles VII. It has its counterpart in the Southern Cabinet Garden where François de Cuvilliés built an octagonal bird house in 1757.

Two lakes are situated on both sides of the canal. The "Dörfchen" was created under Maximilian III Joseph as Petit hameau. The "Salettl" (1799), a cottage with its little garden nearby close to the former menagerie served as attraction for the children of Maximilian IV Joseph.

The Grand Cascade. Statue of *Isar* on the right, of the *Danube* on the left

The garden wall (1730–1735) preserves several Ha-ha effects. A passage close to the old arboretum in the north of the Grand Parterre leads to the large *Botanical Garden* of Munich. Originally there was also a visual axis, the *Durchblick*, to the north-west-located Blutenburg Castle.

The canals of Nymphenburg are part of the northern Munich channel system, a system of waterways that connected also to the complex of Schleissheim Palace. The endpoint of the eastern canal leading from the city to the palace forms the Cour d'honneur, the centre was designed by Effner as a water parterre with a fountain, cascade and branching canals on both sides. The driveway ("Auffahrtsallee") from the city on both sides of the eastern canal is framed by a semicircle of smaller baroque buildings ("Kavalierhäuser") at the Cour d'honneur. The eastern endpoint of the canal is the *Hubertusbrunnen* (1903, a fountain building by Adolf von Hildebrand).[5]

Garden pavilions

Within the park, a number of pavilions - palaces en miniature - were built:

Badenburg, Royal bathing house

- The **Pagodenburg** (1716–1719) – an octagonal, two story pavilion with Delft tile decoration downstairs and Chinoiserie upstairs. It was built by Joseph Effner as "maison de plaisance" and tea house.[6][7]
- The **Badenburg** (1719–1721) – a Baroque pavilion also by Joseph Effner. It served for the private bathing and contains several rooms including a grand banqueting hall with a festive ornament decor by Charles Dubut and a very large tiled bath with a pool. The dressing room is decorated with various Chinese printed wallpapers. In the Monkey Cabinet the Elector performed his toilette. It was the first major building in Europe for centuries that was exclusively for the purpose of enjoying a comfortable bathroom.
- The **Magdalenenklause** – a faux ruin for retreat and meditation, erected between 1725 and 1728. The building with its prayer room is considered as an early representative of the hermitage and the ruins of architecture in Germany; it was to serve Max Emanuel as a place of contemplation - a memento mori, whose completion the elector however did not longer witness.

Amalienburg, Royal hunting lodge

- The **Amalienburg** – a Rococo hunting lodge constructed in 1734–1739 by François de Cuvilliés for Charles Albert and his wife, Maria Amalia of Austria, including a hall of mirrors (designed by Johann Baptist Zimmermann and Joachim Dietrich) and a kennel room for the hunting dogs. The building with its decoration is a definite masterpiece at the climax of European rococo.[8][9]
- The **Apollotemple** – a neoclassical monopteros temple by Leo von Klenze, erected in 1862–1865.

The architecture of the garden pavilions was influential for other architecture in Germany. So the Wittelsbach Falkenlust Palace was built in the style of the Amalienburg while the Pagodenburg served as prototype for the building of the same name in Rastatt.

Tourism

The main building alone has more than 300,000 visitors per year. Nymphenburg Palace is running dead even with the Munich Residence and lies ahead of Schleissheim Palace, but clearly behind the castles of King Ludwig II, especially Neuschwanstein.

Marstallmuseum Nymphenburg

Museums:

- Schlossmuseum (Royal apartments: Central pavilion, North and South Galleries, Inner Southern Pavilion, Garden pavilions)
- Marstallmuseum (Carriage Museum: South wing)
- Porzellanmuseum München (Nymphenburg porcelain museum: South wing)
- Museum of Man and Nature (North wing)
- Erwin von Kreibig-Museum (South Schlossrondell)

Schloss Nymphenburg is accessible by Munich public transport's tram number 17. This line passes through the city centre, including Stachus and the main train station.

The grand parterre

Miscellaneous

Between 1936 and 1939 open air events called "Nacht der Amazonen" (Night of the Amazons) were performed. These shows in the park comprised 2000 players with international stars, bare-breasted girls and included also members of the SS Cavalry under Hermann Fegelein.

The palace and its park were some of the main filming locations of Alain Resnais's 1961 movie *Last Year at Marienbad*. Also *Ludwig*, a 1972 film directed by Italian director Luchino Visconti about the life and death of King Ludwig II, was partly filmed in Nymphenburg. The Dressage Facility for the equestrian events of the 1972 Summer Olympics was created in the Nymphenburg park.[10]

The palace serves also as headquarters of the Bavarian Administration of State-Owned Palaces, Gardens and Lakes.

Images

Panoramic view of Nymphenburg Palace

Fountain at Nymphenburg Palace.

Main approach

Front view

Back view

Back view at sunset

View from the lakeside, painting by Josef Wenglein, 1883

Monopteros

View toward Monopteros

Badenburg, royal bathing house

Badenburg, royal bathing house

Kitchen of the Amalienburg

Pagodenburg, royal teahouse

Pagodenburg, Nymphenburg Palace, Munich 2013

Court Stables

Magdalenenklause, royal hermitage, after Carl August Lebschée

Juno by Dominik Auliczek

Pluto Dominik Auliczek

Jupiter Dominik Auliczek

Proserpina Dominik Auliczek

See also

- List of Baroque residences
- Nymphenburg Palace Park

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External links

- Nymphenburg Palace official website (http://www.schloss-nymphenburg.de/englisch/palace/index.htm)
- Nymphenburg Palace (http://www.schloesser.bayern.de/englisch/palace/uebers/nymphbur.htm)
- 360° Panorama Nymphenburg Palace (http://www.panorama-cities.net/munich/fountain.html)
- Review of the palace (http://www.destination-munich.com/nymphenburg-palace.html)
- Nymphenburg Palace – video (http://moistraubing.de/index.php/video/muenchen-video/472-schloss-nymphenburg-schonheits-gallerie)

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